

## TO GIVE IS BETTER THAN TO RECEIVE

*“In everything I did, showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the LORD Jesus Him self said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ (Acts 20:15)*

Our joy is to write to you about giving. It is one of the issues that is hard for man to accept to apply in life. It is one of the principles that need good teaching. But we can only get proper instruction from reading the word of God, the Bible.

In one city, a group composed of businessmen who are running big factories met together to discuss the reason of economic stagnation that they are facing; less people are buying their products and less income for their companies. They forwarded their problem to a consultant in Economy. This man studied the situation in the city and the movement of the sales between people. The amount of sales was less and more products are stocked in the market because the people, most of them of low income, are unable to buy!

To solve the situation and the stagnation in the market economy, the consultant suggested to the businessmen to employ more people and provide good salaries to their laborers so to enable them to buy the products and for the stocks to be disposed. The businessmen listened to the Consultant and did what he suggested. The people were employed and started to buy from the market. Consumption increased and demands for the products increased. The factories increased their production and earned more.

The above story explains how it is more blessed to give. If you watch a river, you will see its water flowing from up going down to the sea. The river water is sweet because it is moving and continuously giving away its water. If the water stream stops or is blocked, the water will be stagnant and it will become smelly, not suitable for man’s use.

The blessing that we are receiving from God is like a flowing river, and giving is refreshing to us as we realize that God is our Creator and our Provider. What we receive, if we collect and we do not give, becomes stagnant and no new blessing from the Lord will flow in our lives.

When we look back to the economy of the world we notice it tells, “Save and save.” It says, “Don’t spend, collect, keep for tomorrow.” This is because many people have fear from the future and no faith in the living God who assures and secures our present and future life. The word of God teaches us to give. **“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)** Giving is like sowing seed that may grow to a plant that can produce 30, 60, or 100 times the amount that is sown. The word of God motivates us to give but this does not mean that we give because we want to receive or we want prosperity. Giving demonstrates our faith in God who supplies all our needs. **“He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)** God had sent His Son Jesus to the world to save us from sin and death. Jesus suffered and died on the cross, and rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life. If God gave the most precious to Him, His Son, the Lord Jesus at the proper time, how much will He provide to us all our daily needs? Indeed He is our security for today and our insurance for tomorrow.

Look to the heaven and the earth around. Who created all that we see? He is God the Creator and the Lord of all. When we believe in Jesus and accept Him to be our Saviour and allow Him to be our Lord and the Master of our Life, we become a child of God. **“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26)** As we become God’s children and follow the Lord Jesus, we are assured of having eternal life and inheritance in the kingdom of God, and share with Him His glorious riches. Hence, all what belongs to God – the heaven and the earth – we have share and we are assured, having the faith all what we need at our hand.

God created the world and God created us and called us to be His children through Christ Jesus. Like a river that naturally, abundantly and continually flows out fresh water we can claim to be a river where God’s blessings can continually flow:

- 1) Let us not worry for tomorrow: **“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34) “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)**
- 2) Let us affirm our faith in God: **“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33) “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)**
- 3) Let us please God and do His will: **“Give to the one who asks you, and don not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:42) “Freely you have received, freely you give.” (Matthew 10:8b)**
- 4) Let us give generously: **“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 8:7) “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” (Proverbs 11:25)**

All what we have is from God and for God. We have to manage well all what we have, money and possessions, according to God’s will in order to glorify His Name. We can give to the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and provide shelter to those who do not have. Even the little we have, we can bless others through the giving to their needs. Let us look to our family and our own household because we are responsible to attend to their needs. Let us also look to the need of our church and bring our offerings to the house of God; to help the brethren and refresh those who are in need. God is looking at us and into our hearts. Our giving will never go in vain. God can give exceedingly, abundantly beyond what we have given and we can imagine.

**My dear and beloved:** Today the Lord is teaching us a new style of living. The word of God and the Holy Spirit enables us to give cheerfully. As we feel God’s great love that builds up our faith in Christ we delight to obey His word.

*“Father God in heaven, I praise You for your word that refreshes me. Forgive me my sin, Lord Jesus. I give You my heart, and I hand to you my pocket and my bank account. Everything I own I desire to use it for your glory, my Lord. I praise You because You saved me and accepted me as your Son. I am God’s child and I have eternal life. I give my praise and thanksgiving in your name, Jesus.” Amen.*